

# Pride in Portbury

## Portbury Parish Newsletter – August 2025

Welcome to the Summer edition of our Parish Newsletter. Lots has been going on in the village since the last newsletter and there is lots of summer information here for all villagers.

**Travel Updates:** bus services to and from the village have been updated recently following changes to First Bus and Big Lemon services. For up-to-date journey planning, you can use the Travel West Planner:

<https://journeyplanner.travelwest.info/>

**New bus stop shelters** – these are being installed across the region. Both sides at the bottom of the Sheepway were being installed last week and should now be complete. The improvements follow consultation on local transport hubs from North Somerset Council. Further details on the survey can be found by clicking on this link [Portishead main transport hub engagement results](#). Facilities include:

Accessibility improvements: new shelters with extra space for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs.

Real-time updates: high-contrast real time information (RTI) displays and text-to-speech announcements for visually impaired passengers.

Comfort and convenience: bench-style seating with armrests made from recycled plastic (where space allows) and better visibility, with shelters positioned to face the road.

Safety first: enhanced signage and layouts to ensure ease of use for all.

### Portishead Railway Update:

On 8<sup>th</sup> July, the Government announced that the funding has been allocated for the Portishead line to be reinstated, with stations at Portishead and Pill and an hourly service into Bristol Temple Meads. Construction is due to start in Spring 2026 and the first trains to run in early 2028... this seems to be the actual confirmation that the railway line will be in place soon, but we have heard similar before!

**Bristol Airport:** A new Transport Interchange has been completed. More details are in this video ([click here](#)) – there are now more bus spaces and improved bus links to the airport. Passenger drop off costs £7 for 10 mins access (£7 for 40 minutes for blue badge holders) at the interchange but free drop-off is also available in the “Waiting Zone” on the way to the Car Rental area – this is served by a frequent bus service to take passengers to and from the terminal.



*Above: new style shelters now in place  
Below: work underway on the Sheepway*



*Above: new Portishead station plan  
Below: design for the new station entrance*



## Parish News

**Speed Monitoring Sign:** our sign has been in use for a while now. It is moved between three approved locations (where it can be sited facing both directions) and (according to feedback) does seem to be encouraging drivers to stick to the speed limit (most of the time!)

What it also does is records speeds and frequency of speeding through the village so we will be able to use this to inform future discussions with North Somerset Council and with the Police regarding future traffic measures in the village.

**HGVs:** a number of reports have been made recently of lorries which are over the weight limit for the village. All residents are encouraged to contact the transport manager for the companies in question – it is always helpful (if safe to do so) to take a photograph to capture these details. Reports can also be made by the Parish Council – please contact us on Facebook or email [Portbury\\_parish\\_council@gmail.com](mailto:Portbury_parish_council@gmail.com) to report and we will make contact with the company in question.

**Annual Residents' Meeting** – 6th May 2025: The Parish Council decided to offer a less formal structure for the Residents' Meeting this year. The meeting is an opportunity for residents of the village to get together and discuss matters of concern and also for the Parish Council to answer any questions that parishoners may have. The leaflet handed out at the meeting is reproduced at the end of the newsletter.

### Sheepway News:

Sheepway continues to be a dark corridor with limited lighting to maintain the nature corridor for wildlife and specifically the local Owl population. This means that street lights are on sensors where they are used but also that artificial light is limited along the road – offering a wonderful opportunity for stargazing and observing nature!

The Parish council are planning to engage a professional surveyor to look into the drainage system on Sheepway and the resultant flooding we experienced back last winter to propose a plan for the future. Highways England are also conducting works (as you may have noticed recently on the Portbury Hundred) to clear drains throughout the area as preparations are made for works to add drainage on the motorway. Also, **National Grid** are continuing to tidy up their work areas following the installation of the new pylons, including restoring the access roads to their previous state along the road.



**Planters:** Thank you to everyone who takes time to plant out and water the planters around the village in the summer. These were originally introduced by Valerie Marshall - and are planted and maintained by volunteers each year – keeping the village looking bright and welcoming as well as raising a smile! The plants are provided by North Somerset Council each year but it is the care of the village that keeps them bright and cheerful! Thank you to all our 'Plant Pot Carers' (and Steven Seagull for his celebrity endorsement!)

**Parish Council meetings and vacancies:** this is an opportunity to help to represent the views of the village. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall). Agendas are published one week before meetings and **only agenda items** can be discussed. Any member of the community may add items to the agenda prior to publication. Full details are on the Parish Council website, together with information about joining the council.

**Free child bus tickets:** Child bookings (under 16) on WESTlink are FREE in the summer holidays! Book your journey as per usual on the app or over the phone, and the Child fare will be £0 until Friday, 5 September.



## PORTBURY VILLAGE HALL & SOCIAL CLUB

- EST 1892 -

Clubroom Bar open from 7.30pm Friday and Sunday

### Skittles:

Summer Skittles – every Thursday and Friday from 8pm (Jun-Sept)  
Winter Skittles – every Friday from 7.30pm (Sept-Mar)

### Darts:

Every Thursday from 7.30pm (Sept-Mar)

### Live Sport on the BIG Screen:

All Bristol Bears away matches shown – see Facebook for updates on other sports/matches



### Events:



#### August

Sat 10/08 3.00pm Wed 13/08 7.30pm Sat 30/08 10.00am	Community Shield PSG v Tottenham Village Hall Open Day	Lounge Big Screen Lounge Big Screen Come and See Us!
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#### September

Sat 06/10 7.30pm Sat 13/09 7.30pm	Quiz Night Rock n Roll Bingo	Lounge Bar Lounge Bar
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#### October

Sat 11/10 7.30pm Sat 18/10 7.30pm	Live Music (TBC) Quiz Night	Main Hall (ticket) Lounge Bar
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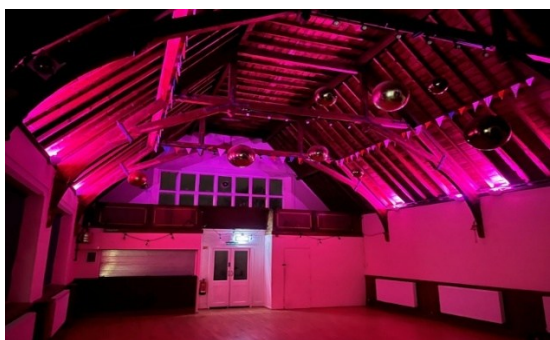
#### November

Mon 10/11 7.30pm November (TBC)	Village Hall AGM Cheese and Wine evening	Lounge Bar – all welcome Main Hall (ticket)
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#### December

Christmas Eve Christmas Day New Year's Eve	Pill Owls Carol Concert 10pm Bar Open 12-2pm Village Party	Lounge Bar Lounge Bar Lounge Bar (ticket)
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[www.portburyvh.org.uk](http://www.portburyvh.org.uk) - bookings@portburyvh.org.uk  
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date



## Portbury Village Hall and Social Club

**Follow us on Facebook for a regular update of events which are coming up.**

**Open Day:** we want to welcome as many members of the village community into **your** Village Hall. Whether you are looking for a place to meet your neighbours, have a quiet drink, get involved in sports and activities or looking for a venue for a party or event, we are here for you. **Come and look round from 10am on Saturday 30/08/2025.** Look out for flyers coming through your letterbox with more details and a selection of the events planned for the rest of 2025.

**Live Sports:** we have taken out a subscription to TNT Sports so can now show live Premiership Football, PREM Rugby and other events – please check Facebook for live games (we will be aiming to show all Bristol Bears away games). We are always looking for people to open the club – get in touch if you would like to see us open for more evenings!

**Redecorating:** since January, the whole Hall and Club have been redecorated – come and have a look at the smart new appearance of the facilities! We have also refurbished the Hall Bar so that it matches the look of the Clubroom bar.

**Sports Teams:** we now have 5 Summer Skittles teams in the village (June-September) and 2 Winter Skittles teams (playing in the Pill, Portishead and Portbury League) who play on Friday evenings from September to April. We also now have a Darts Team, playing on Thursday evenings from September onwards. **All teams are always happy to welcome new members!**

The second half of the year will include the return of Quiz Nights (Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October), Rock n Roll Bingo (Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September), Live Music (TBC) and the return of our Cheese and Wine evening. All events are publicised on Facebook – follow us for more information and to stay up to date.

It seems strange to talk about Christmas but please add these dates to your diary: the **Pill Owls** are performing twice: early on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December (for the children of the village) and again on Christmas Eve around 10pm.

The hall and clubroom are run by volunteers and we are always looking for people to join the team (full training can be given!) – this is your venue in the village and a great resource but it is reliant on people getting involved. If you would like to know more, please come and see us at our Open Day on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August, from 10am.

Hire the Hall, Club room or whole facility for your next event: [www.portburyvh.org.uk](http://www.portburyvh.org.uk) or email [bookings@portburyvh.org.uk](mailto:bookings@portburyvh.org.uk)

## **Portbury Allotments**

It's been a strange old time down at the allotments these last twelve months. Last summer saw bugs and god knows just what else eat everything there was to be eaten before it had time to grow. The winter months saw rain; and then more rain, and then even more rain which challenged even the most hardy of souls to get down there and do what those months called for. And then, as if to punish us for not saving enough of all that rainwater to last us through the driest of summer spells, mother earth hits us with .... the driest of summer spells! If anyone was looking to show how relaxing and easy allotment gardening is, they certainly would not exemplify the last twelve months to illustrate the point.

But, as any middle manager worth his salt in the realms of management speak will tell you, "we are where we are and we just have to deal with it"!

Actually though, what the last twelve months has demonstrated is how wonderful allotment gardening can be regardless of all that mother nature throws at you. Yes the bugs and all else tried their best to eat everything but still, that which remained was as fresh and flavoursome as vegetables can be. The winter made preparing the ground for the new season all the more difficult but when the time was right, the effort was put in, the ground was cared for, and new life was added to the soil. And now, when the water butts have been emptied and water is recognized as the precious commodity it is, we have to get our thinking caps on and come up with a better way of collecting and storing even more.

When all is said and done; through the digging, the weeding, and the constant watering, we can see the tomatoes turn red, the runner beans hang tender and fresh, the carrots thrusting their green leaves high above the earth to give hint as to what's below, and the onions swell and smell so wonderfully as their bulbous flesh sits upon the soil. And as for the lettuce? Until you taste one of those bad boys, you might easily have forgotten how tasty lettuce can actually be! In the words of Eric Clapton, "Let it grow".



So there it is, allotment gardening bringing out the best in us to face that which needs facing and to do what we know is so worthwhile doing. Much has, and is written about the benefits of allotment gardening with respect to both physical and mental health, so adding my Tuppence worth is just not worth Tuppence. That is not to say those benefits aren't recognized, far from it. In fact, overcoming the challenges as above only serve to amplify how worthwhile it is.

Thankfully, Portbury Allotments has the luxury of being fully supported by the Parish Council and long may that continue. The Allotment Working Group remain committed to pursuing the Allotments as that which 'the village can be proud of and not embarrassed by' and are giving their time and energy in fulfilling that mission statement. In recent times, the profile of the allotments has changed such that there are now more smaller plots as opposed to the fewer larger ones of yesteryear. In thinking these plots are more manageable in today's all too busy world, we are seeing more people interested in picking up the gauntlet, (or should it be spade?), and giving allotment gardening a go. Should you be similarly interested just contact the Parish Clerk (see PPC website) and hopefully we will see you down there basking in the realization of just how wonderful having an allotment can be.

Tony Coles



## **Portbury Women's Institute (WI)**

We meet on third Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm, Portbury Village Hall (side entrance). To find out more before you come along, please contact Helen Francis on 07503 134817. Find us on Facebook: Portbury WI

**Thank you** for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please let us know what you would like to see in our next issue – due out in November. If you would like to contribute an article or feature, please contact [crisc@portburypc.org.uk](mailto:crisc@portburypc.org.uk).



## **PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2025**

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)



### **ANGUS STEAKHOUSE**

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

### **ASDA**

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

### **ASK ITALIAN**

Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays

### **BEEFEATER**

Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer

### **BELLA ITALIA**

Children eat for £1 with any adult main

### **BILLS**

Kids Eat Free weekdays, 21st July – 29th Sept

### **BREWERS FAYRE**

Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer

### **BREWDOG**

2 Kids eat free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August

### **BURGER KING**

From 28th July - 31st August, Kids Eat Free (via app)

### **CHIQUITO**

Kids eat FREE Daily Until August 31st

### **DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES**

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

### **FRANKIE & BENNY'S**

Kids Eat Free from 14<sup>th</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

### **FUTURE INNS**

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

### **GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS**

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

### **HARVESTER**

Kids eat for £1, Mon - Fri via the App

### **HUNGRY HORSE**

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

### **IKEA**

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

### **LAS IGUANAS**

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

### **MARCO PIERRE WHITE**

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

### **MORRISONS**

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

### **PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM**

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

### **PREMIER INN & TRAVELODGE**

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

### **PRETO**

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

### **PUREZZA**

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

### **SA BRAINS PUBS**

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

### **SIZZLING PUBS**

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

### **TABLE TABLE**

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

### **TESCO**

Kids Eat FREE with a 60p spend until Aug 31st

### **TGI FRIDAYS**

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

### **THE REAL GREEK**

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

### **TOBY CARVERY**

Kids eat for £1 all day (weekdays) until Aug 29th

### **WHITBREAD INNS**

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

### **YO! SUSHI**

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

### **ZIZZI**

Kids eat free this summer holidays (ex Saturdays)



## Portbury Parish Council Annual Resident's Meeting

### *Updates*

#### **Traffic & Transport – Cllr Penn**

Traffic issues have been an agenda item throughout this year, PPC (assisted by residents) have been working to keep this item at the top of NSC's agenda. Since the last resident's meeting, PPC have:

- Represented the Village in the ongoing A369 NSC bus route proposals
- Purchased a vehicle speed camera and display and infrastructure (posts and solar panels)
- Sited the display at key entry and exit points to the village
- Rotated the positioning of the Speed camera and display.



The good news is that the camera will help to collect evidence to help strengthen our case with NSC to improve the traffic situation in the village

#### **Planning – Cllr Chilcott**

Since the last resident's meeting, there have been planning items on every PPC agenda, whether new applications or updates on existing plans. Over the past year the PPC have looked at 23 separate applications.

2024							2025			
Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
3	1	1	4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	n/a

Of these applications, PPC maintains a neutral position on most applications unless there are significant issues with the application (e.g. Green Belt, detrimental impact on local infrastructure etc.) where we will make a comment on the application. These comments will then inform NSC's position on accepting or refusing the application.

The impact of NSC's Local Plan and any subsequent developments and applications will be closely monitored.

## Village Hall Liaison – Cllr Campbell

Portbury Village Hall is run by volunteers - please contact for more information on getting involved, whether as a committee member, running an event or taking a shift behind the bar - we are always looking for new faces and ideas!

Likewise: the village newsletter is a quarterly publication aimed at keeping the village informed as to what is going on. Please contact CrisC@ to pass on stories and information. If you represent an organisation with links to the village, please get in touch to become a regular contributors

## Other PPC roles

### *Village Lengthsman*

Kevin Weekes is currently our Village Lengthsman. Kevin took over from his father Brian, who had held the position for many years. As a result, Kevin is an individual who knows our village well.

- Under the auspices of the PPC, the past year has seen Kevin:
- Undertake playground inspections on a weekly and monthly basis
- Undertake repairs to playparks equipment
- Cutting the grass at playparks
- Emptying and disposing the contents from the dog poo bins
- Undertake some litter/flytipping collection
- Cut back any overgrowth (not including residential properties)
- Keeping walkways clear including the path to St. Mary's school
- Ensure that all signage is visible

Kevin will continue to fulfil these duties and any other maintenance issues he can deal with.

## And Lastly!

Would you like to have a say in how things are done and what the local Parish Council monies are spent on? Do you like to see the village looked after, planters maintained, benches, bins and play areas cared for? Do you enjoy visiting Prior's Wood, seeing the bluebells. Do you enjoy walking through the playing fields and seeing the children playing in the play area?

Without Parish Councillors and those supporting and maintaining all of the above, the parish would not be the pleasant place it is today. We NEED new people to join the friendly Parish Council and help us with keeping the parish a great place to live, work and play in.

Becoming a Parish Councillor is an opportunity to influence both the short and long term development of the parish of Portbury and to represent the views of all residents within the Parish. If you need to know more ask one of the councillors or visit <http://www.portburypc.org.uk/>

